

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, PL

SUBJECT: SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF POLISH CHAMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE

REF: STATE 218071

ALSO FOR COMMERCE: BEWT-LAZARUS

1. OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND POLISH CHAMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AND DIS-APPOINTMENT TO US THIS WEEK OVER WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRICTIONS WHICH USG HAS IMPOSED IN CONNECTION WITH GRANTING OF APPROVAL TO OPEN SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE OF CHAMBER OF FOREIGN TRADE. THEY ARE BASING THEIR COMMENTS ON A TELEGRAPHIC REPORT FROM POLISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON WHICH CONTAINS FULL TEXT OF NOTE DEPARTMENT PRESENTED TO EMBASSY ON NOVEMBER 5.

2. CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF MFT (STREBSKI) COMMENTED THAT, PARTICULARLY AFTER SUCH A LONG WAIT FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE, NEWS OF EXTRA CONDITIONS, (NAMELY, REGISTRATION UNDER FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT, AND CLOSED AREA REQUIREMENTS) CAME AS RATHER RUDE SHOCK. ALSO, HE SAID, DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE

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ON QUESTION CONCERNING CUSTOMS PROBLEMS OF STAFF OF

COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR'S OFFICE IN NEW HAD BEEN DIS-
APPOINTING. STREBSKI NOTED THAT FOR THE MOMENT THESE
WERE HIS PERSONAL VIEWS SINCE MATTER HAD NOT YET BEEN
REFERRED TO MINISTER LOECHOWSKI. IN REPOSE TO EMBASSY
OFFICER'S EFFORT TO CATEGORIZE FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION
ACT REQUIREMENT AS PRO FORMA STEP REQUIRED BY US
LAW, STREBSKI CLAIMED AN EXCEPTION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE
IN THIS CASE IF US HAD DESIRED.

3. POLISH CHAMBER OFFICIALS, AS ASIDE DURING CURRENT
VISIT OF US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPRESENTATIVES,
EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS OVER "NEW HURDLES" ESTABLISHED BY
USG. THEY SAID THEY WERE LESS CONCERNED ABOUT REGISTRATION
REQUIREMENT THAN BY THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD
RESULT FROM CLOSED AREA REQUIREMENTS AND NUMERICAL
PERSONNEL CEILING IMPOSED ON THE NEW OFFICE. FOR EXAMPLE,
WOULD PRIOR CLEARANCES BE NEEDED EACH TIME THEIR MAN
WISHED TO TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES? THEY ALSO SAID THAT
ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT INTEND TO ASSIGNE MORE THAN THREE
PERMANENT STAFF MEMBERS TO THE OFFICE, TIMES WERE ENVISAGED
WHEN THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EXTRA STAFF MEMBERS AT
SAN FRANCISCO FOR PERIODS OF SEVERAL MONTHS'S DURATION FOR SPECIAL
TRADE PROMOTION PROJECTS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED AND COMMENTS: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WE MIGHT USE IN RES-
PONDING TO OBJECTIONS RAISED BY POLISH SIDE. EMBASSY
WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF THE CONSIDERATIONS
WHICH LED DEPARTMENT TO IMPOSE THREE-MAN PERSONNEL CEILING,
WHICH APPEARS SOMEWHAT ARBITRARY. FURTHERMORE, WE QUESTION
NECESSITY TO PLACE CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS ON SAN FRAN-
CISCO OFFICE STAFF, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF EMBASSY'S
UNDERSTANDING THAT USG WILL SOON PROPOSE TO GOP RECIPRO-
CAL ELIMINATION OF ALL SUCH RESTRICTIONS. ARE
CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS NOW APPLIED TO NON-ACCREDITED
MEMBERS OF COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR'S OFFICE IN NEW YORK?
DAVIES

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